7

531. m.
7.

K

STRAIT of SINKAPORE.

8th February, 1788.

IN the *Old Journals* mention is made of *ſome Dangers* to the Eaſtward of *Tree Iſland*; Capt. *Harriſon* of the *Kent*, 1708, ſays he was aground, in a former Voyage, upon a *Rock* about 3′ Eaſt from *Tree Iſland*; but the moſt circumſtantial Account is in the *Howland*.

"16th March, 1712, ⚓ in 16 fathoms coarſe ſand. The Bearings of the Iſlands were, viz.

Red Iſland	SWbW
The N° Point of *Tree Iſland* .	WbN½N
Kid Iſland*	NE½E. 1′ diſt.

"At 10 AM The Tide turned and ſet to the WSW, and ſo continued at Noon very ſtrong.

"17th March, At half an hour paſt one yeſterday, having a fine breeze of wind at NNE and NEbN, and looking black in the NE, encouraged me to hope for more, and having a ſlack tide weighed and hauled up NW and NWbN, and had then depths from 20 to 30 fathoms foul ground; we kept up as near as could lye with a full ſail, and had a very freſh gale of wind, but all of a ſudden found that we did not go ahead by the bearings of the land, but fell wholly to leeward, and all of a ſudden had but 10 fathoms water, then put the ſhip about, and when were about had 18 fathoms, and then 15 and 14 very (uneven ſoundings) I endeavoured to ſhoot over to the Eaſtward, but then falling little wind found I could not, and ſeeing two Riplings hard by us was forced to come to ⚓ in 16½ fathoms foul ground.

* q? *Barn Iſland?*

" When at ⊕, ſent the boat to ſound, and on the Northmoſt ſhoal found in one part of it no more than 7 feet water, * and on the Southmoſt about 2 fathoms, we were forced over to leeward all of a ſudden by a ſtrong tide, that came out of the old Streights of Sinkapore, when ⊕ were not above 2 cables length from the ſhoals, bearings were.

The *Three Trees* on *Tree Iſland* .	W½N 2′ diſt.
N° Point of The *Cardimons* . .	W
N° Point of *Tree Iſland* . .	WNW W′
S° D° . D° . . .	WbS
Red Iſland	SE½S
Kid Iſland	EbN about 6′
N° Ripling	WbN ⅓ of mile.
S° Ripling	S½W d°

" At 4 PM run out two long warps to the ENE and hove up to them; rid by the ſtream ⊕ all night, then having 20 fathoms water and ſtrong ground. All night it proved calm, but from 6 at night till 12 found a very hot tide, which at firſt ſet to the SW, then WbS till half ſpent, then ſet WNW at the rate of near 4 Knots, and at 6 AM the tide run ſtrong to the ENE. The Bearings of the Land from the place where rid all night, viz.

The N° P^t. of *Tree Iſland* .	WNW½N
The N° P^t. of the *Cardimons* .	WbN N′
The *Three Trees* on *Tree Iſland* .	W N′ about 3′ diſt.
Red Iſland	SW S′
Kid Iſland	EbN

" This

* Qu? 17 feet; for one Journal ſays 3 fathoms. *A*

" This *Tree Iſland* is much bigger than is deſcribed in the drafts, it being, by what was viſible to us, at leaſt 3′ long, and runs a great way over to the NE, and is attended with many dangerous overfalls and ſhoals, for off the North Shoal that we were near, and had in the ſhoaleſt part no more than 7 feet water, a little way from that was 5, 6, 7 fathoms and not ¼ ℔ [a] between the two ſhoals was 13 and 14 fathoms ſoft ground, ſo that 'tis my opinion that there is no ſafety in paſſing this ſhoal without having a commanding gale of wind, and likewiſe a good regard to the ſetting of the tides, but the ſafe way is, when come about Kid Iſland, to keep that N.° ſhoar on board, where is the beſt ground and more jregular, ſometimes having a ſtrong tide one way, and not much better than a ſlack the other, and ſometimes ſhall have a long ſlack, and then the tide ſet very forcibly, all at once. We now continue under the unhappy circumſtances of a calm and foul anchoring ground, and not know to kep [a] it.

" 18th March. Theſe 24 hours have had cloudy dark weather with ſmall breezes, variable as ℔ Log, and part calm.

" At 2 yeſterday the tide ſet to the SW, and continued for about an hour eaſy, then ſet to the Weſt and WSW, and towards ſunſet run very ſtrong, but night coming, and being in very foul ground, and having uncertain weather, I moored ſhip to keep her from ranging that might not damage our cables; this ſtream continued till 12 at night, then abated and had a ſlack till

[a] So in the Original. D

till daylight, then hove up our ſmall bower, and ſhortened in on the ſtream cable, lying ready to weigh with the firſt ſpirt of wind, that ſhould come to run us out of this foul ground, and at 8 A M a breeze came at SW, when ordered the ⚓ to be weighed, but could not, though have a great ſtrain, by which ſuppoſe the ⚓ was foul of a rock, and immediately after fell calm, ſo that let all ſtand, reſolving with the next ſpirt of wind to cut the cable if could not weigh the ⚓; but the tide being now made to the NE, and a ſmall breeze ſpringing up at SW, gave the Ship a ſheer, when found ſhe drove, when ordered to heave in the ſlack of the cable, I concluding that was cut, but contrary to my expectation the ⚓ came up alſo, then made ſail and ſtood over NbW, to get towards the Iſland where expected clean ground and moderate depths of water, our ſoundings over, were 20, 25, 30, 40 fathoms foul ground, that on a ſudden ſhoalened again to 30, 25, 20, ſand and ſhells, then 18, the next caſt 16, when ⚓ about 10 A M it being ſand and ouze, the tide ſetting ſo ſtrong at NEbE. about 1^{k} 4^{f}. The Bearings of the Land when ⚓, viz..

Cardimons	. . .	*fr.*	W½N *to* WbS½S
Tree Iſland	. . . .		WbS *to* SWbW about 4^{f}.
The *Single Tree*	. . .		WbS½S
The *Three Trees*	. . .		WSW
Red Iſland	. . . .		S½W
Kid Iſland	. . . .		EbS½S
A ſmall *Iſland* at the Entrance of *Sinkapore*			NEbN.

" When anchored had a very ſmall breeze, that could not do any thing with the tide, ſetting ſtrong to the NE, and find that the water ſhoalens very quick, coming over towards the Iſlands, ſo that the channel is but narrow between Tree Iſland and the Streight of Sinkapore. "